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**MAILED**  
**MAR 30 2012**  
**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 5,971,242 :  
Issue Date: 10/26/1999 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Application No. 08/939,927 :  
Filed: 09/29/1997 :  
For: VEHICLE ACCESSORY HOLDER :

This is a decision on the petition, filed on January 5, 2012, under 37 CFR 1.378(b), that the Office accept the unavoidably delayed payment of maintenance fees for the above-referenced patent.

The petition is **granted**.

In light of the showing of record, it is concluded that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fees would be timely paid.

Accordingly, the third maintenance fees in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is noted that the amount due for the third maintenance fee (small entity) is \$2,365.00, and the surcharge required by § 1.20(i)(1) is \$700.00, resulting in a total of \$3,065.00 On January 5,

2012, petitioner submitted \$3,140.00. The \$75.00 overpayment is unnecessary. A refund check will be scheduled.

The address in the petition is different than the correspondence address. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address in the petition. All future correspondence, however, will be mailed solely to the address of record. A change of correspondence address should be filed if the correspondence address needs to be updated.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.



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